

TWO UNUSUAL CASES OF HOMONYMY IN ORTHOPTERA WITH NEW NAMES FOR SPECIES FROM INDIA¹

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Homonymy has been reported in two cases: *Coptotettix parvulus* Hancock 1912 is preoccupied by *C. parvulus* Hancock 1909; the former is renamed here as *C. hancockus* nom. nov. *Pteronemobius panteli* Chopard 1969 is preoccupied by *P. panteli* (Hebard 1913), and *P. pantelianus* Chopard 1967 is a nomen nudum. As both the names given for the same species are invalid, it is renamed as *P. pantelchopardorum* nom. nov.

INTRODUCTION

Two unusual cases of homonymy have been determined, wherein in the first case an author (Hancock) committed homonymy himself; and in the second case, another author (Chopard) twice tried to name a new species discovered by him, but both the times failed. The first case belongs to the Tetrigid grasshoppers and the second to the crickets (Gryllids), and the species bearing junior homonyms in both cases happen to be from India.

The particulars of both species, under their valid new names, are reported in this paper.

Coptotettix hancockus nomen novum (Orthoptera: Tetrigidae)

= *Coptotettix parvulus* Hancock 1912: 145.
(preoccupied)

Hancock (1909) described a new species and named it as *Coptotettix parvulus*. The material came from "Zambesi, 3000 ft., Victoria Falls, Africa — 'Rain forest'" and was collected and

presented by Prof. H. Beare to the University Museum, Oxford. This is a valid species and has been catalogued by Steinmann (1962) recording its distribution in Zanzibar.

Curiously, three years later Hancock described another new species from India in 1912 and named it also as *Coptotettix parvulus*. These specimens came from "Chapra, Bengal", collected by Mackenzie. Later this species was referred by Hancock (1913) recording it further from "Dibrugarh, N.E. Assam; Kobo, 400 ft., Assam; and Janakmukh [Arunachal Pradesh]", and by Hancock (1915) recording it from "Singla, Darjeeling Distt., 1500 ft.; Kushtea [Bangladesh]; Sikkim and Calcutta" also. It was catalogued by Fletcher (1921), but strangely not included by Steinmann (1970) in his CHECK-LIST OF ORIENTAL TETRIGIDAE. Tinkham in 1937 gave to its Type specimen a label "*Paratettix parvulus*", but does not seem to have published it.

Thus, Hancock himself committed primary homonymy and under the present situation *C. parvulus* Hancock 1912, applied to the Indian species is an invalid name. There being no other synonym of this species, it is renamed as *C. hancockus* Shishodia & Varshney, nom. nov.

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Diagnosis. Body small; colour brown or lighter brown, variegated with fuscous on the pronotum; head not exerted; vertex a little narrower than the width of an eye and fossulated on each side; frontal costa arcuately produced between the antennae, widely and evenly divergent forwards; antennae inserted near the lower margin of the eyes.

Pronotum short, reaching up to the middle of hind femora, widely rounded at apex; dorsum of pronotum granulate, transversely tectiform between the shoulders; median carina compressed, little arcuate forward, straight on the disc, sloping toward the apex; angles of lateral lobes of pronotum obtuse; elytra minute; hindwings not visible; the first and second pulvilli of the posterior tarsi acute spinose, the third longer.

Measurements (in mm). Male: Length of body from head to the apices of hind femora: 6.8; pronotum: 4.3; posterior femora: 4.5.

Material examined. Holotype, which is in Hancock's collection at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (U.S.A.) has been examined by the senior author.

Pteronemobius pantelchopardorum

nomen novum

(Orthoptera: Gryllidae)

= *Pteronemobius pantelianus* Chopard 1967: 168.
(nomen nudum)

= *Pteronemobius panteli* Chopard 1969: 167.
(preoccupied)

Chopard described a new species of cricket collected from "West Bengal: Kurseong". Naming it as *Pteronemobius panteli* he included its description for publication in his volume on the Grylloidea in the FAUNA OF INDIA series. It may be assumed that he must have submitted it for publication before "26.10.1964", the date on which he has signed the preface to this volume. However, the FAUNA volume itself was published and released after about five years only in April 1969.

It further appears that soon after submitting the manuscript of the FAUNA volume, he perhaps found out that the name *Pteronemobius panteli* is preoccupied by *Pteronemobius panteli* (Hebard 1913). Hence, Chopard re-named his species as *Pteronemobius pantelianus* and included it as such in his WORLD CATALOGUE OF GRYLLIDS, which was published in July 1967. Unfortunately, he neither corrected his MSS of the FAUNA volume, nor mentioned about his *P. panteli* in the CATALOGUE. Perhaps he was sure that the FAUNA volume would be published and released within 1967, and under this assumption he gave full citation and pagination of all taxa dealt within the FAUNA volume, in the CATALOGUE; and mentioned 1967 as the year of publication of the FAUNA, which was incidentally not correct.

Under the circumstances, a nomenclatural confusion exists regarding this species. Looking through the original publications and with the application of Articles under the INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE, it is hereby concluded that (i) *P. pantelianus* Chopard 1967 is a nomen nudum, since no indication, description or illustration accompanied this proposal, except mentioning of the collection locality of the specimens and an incorrect reference to his then unpublished FAUNA volume. In fact, Chopard (1967) has not used either 'sp. n.' or 'nom. nov.' epithets or any other words to these effects while publishing the name *pantelianus*; (ii) *P. panteli* Chopard 1969 is a preoccupied name by *Nemobius panteli* Hebard 1913, a species occurring in Mexico and Costa Rica, which has been subsequently brought under the genus *Pteronemobius*, and shown in this combination by Chopard (1967). (Incidentally the entry of "*panteli*" is missing in the Index of the FAUNA volume.) Thus, Chopard twice tried to name his species but failed both the times. *P. panteli* Chopard 1969, presently stands as a

junior secondary homonym and must be rejected; (iii) there being no other valid name available for this species, it is renamed as *P. pantelchopardorum* Shishodia & Varshney, nom. nov.

Diagnosis. Body rather short and stout; colour uniformly brown, or dark brown, shining, almost glabrous except for the long bristles; head big, rounded; vertex sloping; eyes rounded; ocelli yellow; antennae brown; maxillary palpi brown with the last two joints white, 3rd and eighth tergite of abdomen with white band dorsally.

Male: Posterior tibiae armed with 3 external and 4 internal spines, the first spine tuberculiform and the 4th strongly swollen at base; elytra extending to the apex of abdomen; mirror divided into two almost equal parts by an oblique vein; diagonal vein long, feebly curved at base; hindwings absent.

Female: Posterior tibiae armed with 3 spines on each margin; elytra a little shorter than the abdomen; dorsal field with 4 parallel,

almost equidistant veins, the 2nd furcate near the apex, the 3rd and 4th united a little before the apex; ovipositor short, feebly curved; hind wings absent.

Measurements (in mm, *vide* Chopard 1969). Length of body: 5; pronotum: 1.2; posterior femora: 4; elytra (male): 3.4; elytra (female): 2.2; ovipositor: 2.5.

Material examined. Holotype is stated to be in Pantel's collection, at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (France). We have examined identified specimens of it in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

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